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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1909

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ATHENS 12991

DEPT FOR INR/GI/T

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: [ER](#) [GR](#)  
SUBJECT: TERRORIST UPDATE

REF: STATE 200090

11. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

12. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN  
RESPONSE TO REFTEL:

- A. ON AUGUST 5, 1973, TWO TERRORISTS  
SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO AHMAD ABD  
AL GHAFUR'S GROUP OF FATAH DISSIDENTS ATTACKED  
THE CROWDED TRANSIT LOUNGE OF THE ATHENS  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WITH GRENADES AND GUNFIRE,  
KILLING FIVE PERSONS AND INJURING 55 OTHERS. THEY  
WERE CAPTURED, TRIED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH BY A  
GREEK COURT IN JANUARY 1974. THEIR SENTENCES WERE  
COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN APRIL 1974, AND  
GREECE EXPELLED THEM TO LIBYA IN MAY 1974. THE  
TWO GUNMEN WERE APPARENTLY FREED BY LIBYA, SINCE  
ONE OF THEM WAS WITH ABD AL GHAFUR WHEN HE WAS  
KILLED IN BEIRUT ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1974.

- B. ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1974, A TWA JET BOUND FROM  
TEL AVIV FOR NEW YORK WITH 88 PERSONS ABOARD  
CRASHED IN THE IONIAN SEA OFF GREECE. THERE WERE  
NO SURVIVORS. THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB  
NATIONALIST YOUTH FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE  
SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT IN BEIRUT SAYING  
THAT A MEMBER OF THEIR ORGANIZATION WHO WAS ON THE  
FLIGHT EXPLODED A CHARGE HE WAS CARRYING AROUND  
HIS WAIST, CAUSING HIS OWN DEATH AND THE  
DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANE. ON JANUARY 11, 1975,  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
INVESTIGATORS EXAMINED A RELATIVELY SMALL  
QUANTITY OF DEBRIS RECOVERED AFTER THE PLANE SANK  
IN 10,800 FEET OF WATER, SAID LABORATORY TESTS  
SHOWED CONCLUSIVELY THAT A HIGH-EXPLOSIVE BOMB IN  
A REAR CARGO COMPARTMENT CAUSED THE CRASH. WE ARE  
AWARE OF NO EVIDENCE LINKING THE CRASH TO GREECE  
OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT IT OCCURRED IN THE IONIAN  
SEA.

- C. ON DECEMBER 23, 1975, RICHARD S. WELCH WAS  
ASSASSINATED BY GUNMEN OUTSIDE HIS RESIDENCE IN  
THE SUBURB OF PSYCHIKO NORTH OF ATHENS. A GROUP  
CALLING ITSELF "17 NOVEMBER" SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIMED  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATION. SINCE THEN,  
"17 NOVEMBER" HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
ASSASSINATION OF FOUR GREEK POLICE OFFICIALS, A  
CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER AND, ON  
NOVEMBER 15, 1983, THE ASSASSINATION OF USN  
CAPTAIN GEORGE TSANTES. "17 NOVEMBER" ALSO  
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATED  
ASSASSINATION OF JUSMAGG COURIER M/SGT JUDD ON  
APRIL 3, 1984. THE GOG INVESTIGATION OF  
"17 NOVEMBER" CONTINUES. NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN  
MADE. WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION TO ADD TO THE  
SUBSTANTIAL REPORTING WE HAVE PROVIDED THE  
DEPARTMENT ON "17 NOVEMBER."

13. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING  
ANTI-AMERICAN TERRORIST ACTS HAVE OCCURRED IN  
GREECE:

- A. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE "REVOLUTIONARY  
PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE" (ELA) HAS CLAIMED  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME 250 BOMBINGS SINCE IT

FIRS' APPEARED IN 1974. ITS TARGETS HAVE INCLUDED MULTINATIONAL FIRMS, POLICE STATIONS AND THE CARS OF FOREIGN, INCLUDING AMERICAN, DIPLOMATS. ELA ALSO RECLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TWO BOMBS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN 1982. ON MAY 15, 1985, CHRIS'OS 'SOUTSOUVIS, A TERRORIST SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND TO HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF GREEK PUBLIC PROSECUTOR GEORGIOS THEOFANOPOULOS ON APRIL 1, 1985, WAS KILLED IN A SHOOT-OUT WITH POLICE. INVESTIGATORS ESTABLISHED THAU'SOUVIS BELONGED TO ELA FROM 1976 TO 1980. THE POG INVESTIGATION OF ELA CONTINUES. NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE THUS FAR.

- B. ON FEBRUARY 2, 1985, A BOMB EXPLODED AT A BAR IN GLYFADA FREQUENTED BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL, INJURING 55 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS. NO GROUP CREDITABLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING. THE GOG HAS FILED CHARGES AGAINST UNKNOWN PERSONS, A COMMON PRACTICE IN GREECE WHEN A SUSPECT'S IDENTITY REMAINS UNDETERMINED.

- C. ON JUNE 14, 1985, TWA FLIGHT 847 FROM ATHENS TO NEW YORK CARRYING 153 PASSENGERS AND CREW WAS HIJACKED SHORTLY AFTER ITS TAKE-OFF FROM ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY SAMIR SOLWAN AND GOLAB AL-HOBBI, TWO SHI'ITE LEBANESE TERRORISTS BELIEVED TO BELONG TO HEZBOLLAH. A THIRD ACCOMPLICE, ALI A'WA, WHO WAS UNABLE TO BOARD THE FLIGHT IN ATHENS, WAS CAPTURED BY GREEK AUTHORITIES AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXCHANGED FOR A NUMBER OF PASSENGERS WHILE THE PLANE WAS IN ALGIERS. ON JUNE 15, USN DIVER ROBERT STETHEM WAS BRU'ALLY MURDERED BY THE HIJACKERS AND HIS BODY DUMPED ON 'HE TARMAC AT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE REMAINING PASSENGERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED GREEK AUTHORITIES ARE CONTINUING THEIR INVESTIGATION AS TO HOW THE HANDGUN AND HAND GRENADES USED BY THE TERRORISTS WERE SMUGGLED ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT.

- D. ON JULY 1, 1985, A CAR BOMB EXPLODED IN THE PARKING LOT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE APOLLON PALACE HOTEL, THE U.S. AIR FORCE CLUB IN KAVOURI, A SEASIDE SUBURB OF ATHENS. FORTUNATELY, NO ONE WAS INJURED. TWO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS -- ELA "ANTI-IMPERIALIST ANTI-AMERICAN STRUGGLE GROUP" -- CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING. THE GOG INVESTIGATION CONTINUES, WITH NO ARRESTS THUS FAR.

14. WE ARE AWARE OF NO EVIDENCE OF MATERIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO LOCAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OR NON-INDIGENOUS TERRORIST GROUPS.

STEARNS